

## District Councillor's report

Cocking

May 2022

Chichester district was mentioned in the Times as the most generous place in the country for housing Ukrainian refugees.

Unlike the majority of councils, Chichester District is well ahead in forwarding the rebate of £150 from the government, to help alleviate the cost of energy cost increases. So far over £2.3 million has been paid out to 15,580 residents' info.... <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/energybillsrebate2022>

The council has proceeded 36 road closure so far for parish celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The council, with WSCC, the National Park and two other councils has commissioned a report into Water Neutrality so we can understand how it will affect building new homes and other buildings. Cocking parish is just at the inside edge of the area designated by Natural England.

The Novium museum is holding its Roman week from 28<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June. It includes re-enactments, sleep overs, roman cooking, all held in Priory Park.

Info.. <https://www.thenovium.org/article/31146/Roman-Re-Enactment>

CDC will be launching this year's business Enabling Grants scheme later this month.

Businesses will be able to apply online between 9 and 30 May, criteria is already on the council's web site.

A total 117 businesses have now registered across the district for the new virtual shopping site, ShopApply. 52 in Chichester, 28 in East Wittering, 18 in Petworth, 17 in Midhurst, and 12 in Selsey. There is still more recruitment of businesses needed before all the sites can be launched to the public and ShopApply are seeking to engage with local businesses.

Parish councils are asked to promote the following webpage with their constituencies to anyone who may benefit from financial support and/or checking that they are receiving everything due. This includes financial help, debt management advice along with a range of other services. For further information please visit <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances>. Help is also available from WSCC's Household Support Fund

As of 1 April 2022 the council has 3 people sleeping rough in the district. Work continues with stakeholders and the individuals themselves to engage with them and support them into more secure accommodation where this is possible.

Biodiversity Net Gain is being introduced by the new Environment Act. All but the smallest developments will have to demonstrate how they will improve the value for wildlife of their site by at least 10%. Presumably living in tents or caravans is not included.